

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SR-02 ORM-01 SCA-01 VO-03 /074 W

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R 190536Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3410

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 2662

BANGKOK PASS TO AMBASSADOR DEAN

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, LA, CB

SUBJECT: CALL ON KHMER AMBASSADOR U SAY

1. HAVING ASKED YESTERDAY FOR AN APPOINTMENT WITH AMBASSADOR U SAY, I WAS INVITED THIS MORNING FOR BREAKFAST. I TOLD HIM I WAS CALLING TO EXPRESS OUR DEEP SYMPATHY FOR WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO HIS COUNTRY BUT FOUND HIM THROUGHOUT THE HOUR LONG CONVERSATION REMARKABLY CALM, REASONABLE AND MAINTAINING HIS USUAL EQUANIMITY.

2. THE AMBASSADOR SAID HE HAD BEEN CALLED IN BY FOREIGN MINISTER PHOUMI VONGVICHIT YESTERDAY AND INFORMED THAT THE PGNU HAD RECOGNIZED THE GRUNK. HOWEVER, PHOUMI TOLD HIM THAT ALL THE KHmers IN LAOS, INCLUDING THE EMBASSY STAFF, COULD REMAIN HERE. (U SAY ESTIMATES THAT THERE ARE SOME 500 CAMBODIANS AROUND VIENTIANE AND SOME 2,000 MORE RECENT REFUGEES IN SOUTH LAOS.)

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U SAY AND HIS STAFF ARE REMAINING IN THEIR RESIDENCES

AND SIMPLY WAITING INSTRUCTIONS FROM PHNOM PENH. HE SAY THAT IF HE IS INSTRUCTED TO RETURN, HE WILL.

3. HE APPEARED TO MAINTAIN HIGH REGARD FOR LON NOL BUT WAS VERY CRITICAL OF THOSE WHO HAD SURROUNDED HIM. THEY HAD FEATHERED THEIR OWN BEDS AND HAD KEPT LON NOL FROM EVER UNDERSTANDING THE TRUE SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY. HE SAID HE KNEW MOST OF THE NEW LEADERSHIP, AND CONSIDERED THAT IT WAS SIHANOUK WHO HAD DRIVEN THEM TO COMMUNISM. HIS HOPE IS THAT ONCE IN POWER THEY WILL PROVE TO BE NATIONALISTS FIRST.

4. HE WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED TO KNOW WHO HAD LEFT CAMBODIA, AS HE SUSPECTED THAT MANY OF THE WORST ELEMENTS, "NOUVEAUX RICHES", WERE AMONG THEM. HE FOUND IT DIFFICULT, FOR INSTANCE, TO BELIEVE THAT LON NOL HAD STAYED BEHIND. HE INQUIRED RATHER OBLIQUELY AS TO WHETHER THERE MIGHT BE ANY MOVEMENT AFOOT TO CONTINUE THE WAR; WHETHER THE THAI GOVERNMENT OR "OTHERS" MIGHT SUPPORT SUCH A CONTINUING EFFORT. I SAID THAT I HAD NO INFORMATION WHATSOEVER TO THIS EFFECT BUT THAT I STRONGLY DOUBTED THE PRESENT THAI GOVERNMENT WOULD PURSUE SUCH A POLICY AND CERTAINLY THE POLICY OF MY COUNTRY HAD BEEN TO RESTORE PEACE IN CAMBODIA. CONVERSATION ENDED ON ASSURANCES WE WOULD EXCHANGE INFORMATION ON DEVELOPMENTS OF MUTUAL INTEREST.

5. COMMENT: AT LEAST INITIALLY THE PGNU IS TAKING A VERY GENEROUS ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE CAMBODIANS HERE. U SAY APPEARS TO HAVE TAKEN EVENTS IN HIS STRIDE. HE WAS CAREER MILITARY OFFICER, MINISTER OF DEFENSE, AND AS AMBASSADOR TO LAOS HE IMPRESSED US AS REASONABLE IF NOT VERY ACTIVE DIPLOMAT. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION THAT DEPARTMENT BELIEVES MIGHT USEFULLY BE PASSED TO HIM.

CHAPMAN

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